Our Community Newsletter

BELMONT



2024 Revaluation

In early August, KRT Appraisals issued letters to all Belmont property owners regarding their new property assessments, informal hearings were held in August, and values will be finalized by early October. Once the values are finalized, the Town will complete its annual filings to the State of NH Department of Revenue Administration and they will set the 2024 tax rate for the Town. It is anticipated that tax bills will be issued by the first of November and will be due at least 30 days from the bill date. In the event you feel your property assessment is incorrect, you have the right to file an abatement application after receiving your tax bill and before March 1, 2025.

The Town conducted sales updates the last few years to bring property assessments up to fair market value. (State law requires that assessments be at fair market value.) Our equalization ratios calculated by the State have been 67.8% for 2021, 91.8% for 2022 and 88.5% for 2023. The goal is to be at 100%.

The real estate market has continued to increase, with the majority of Belmont properties selling for more than their assessed values.

It is the responsibility of property owners to verify that the information recorded on their property tax cards is accurate and up to date. You may request an updated copy of your tax card by stopping at Town Hall in the Land Use Department. You may also email assessing@belmontnh.gov If you are dissatisfied with your final 2024 assessed value, your next step is to file

for an abatement after you receive your fall tax bill. Applications are available online or at Town Hall. The filing period is after fall tax bills have been issued, until March 1, 2025. The abatement process follows all state RSAs. Property owners are required to submit supporting documentation to dispute their assessed value, which may include photographs, appraisal reports, tax cards of other similar properties for comparison, etc.

Spring tax bills are a prepayment of your annual taxes based on the prior year's assessment and tax rate. Your fall tax bill will reflect the balance due for the whole year after your spring payment is deducted. The Town can only collect taxes for amounts to support the appropriations and budget voted on at our Town Meeting and School Meetings in March 2024. The state calculates our annual tax rate based on the budget and warrant articles voted on at Town & School Meeting, less revenues and income received during the year, such as fees collected and grants received. The Town & School do not, and cannot, collect additional taxes based on higher assessments.

This year residents voted for a default budget and multiple warrant articles were not funded, such as road reconstruction. With the increase in assessed values and the new construction values picked up this year we anticipate, but cannot guarantee, that the Town portion of the tax rate will decrease. We do not have information about how the School, County or State Education portions of the tax rate will look.

Town Administrator's News (cont'd.)

Town Hall will be closed Monday, September 2nd in observance of Labor Day



LiveStream Meetings

The Town of Belmont is now using YouTube to livestream meetings and to archive meeting videos. Videos will also still be made available at Lakes Region Public Access through https://vod.lrpa.org/



We continue to stress the importance of the "Not everything is flushable". Please check out the "Do Not Flush!" list to protect your sewer and septic system. A "Flushable" label does not mean it is SAFE for your septic system or the Town's sewer. Please read the brochure we have included on the Town's website at www.belmontnh.gov

We need your help to ensure our sewers keep flowing.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Town Administrator's Office at 267-8300 ext. 124.

Bulky Waste Disposal

On the 1st Wednesday of each month, Casella Waste will collect your bulky items curbside. Please note this is for Town of Belmont Residential Customers ONLY;



service is not available to commercial property owners. Piles of debris, trash, yard waste or a single item too large for one person to collect WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. A request for pickup must be made in advance by calling Town Hall at 267-8300, Extension 118 or 124 only. You will be asked to list the items you want picked up, you will be advised what the cost is, and you will need to drop off cash or a check made payable to the Town of Belmont prior to the collection Please visit the Town's website day. www.belmontnh.gov for the full details on the program and a price list.



Just a reminder that the Town of Belmont is an active member of Lakes Region Public Access Television which can be seen locally on Breezeline Channels 24, 25, and 26. If you are a camera buff and you have an interest in producing a show to be shown on LRPA, please contact the station at 528-3070 to discuss your idea. LRPA has made significant strides to improve programming this past year and its presence in the Lakes Region. We urge you to check out their website at http://lrpa.org

Town of Belmont Budget Committee Member Needed

The Town of Belmont is seeking one interested resident who is a registered voter to serve on the Budget Committee.

This is a <u>short-term commitment</u> with Tuesday evening meetings at 6:30 pm from early November though early January. (First meeting only, Thurs. 11/07)



Please submit a letter of interest by 10/07/2024 to:

Town Administrator, Alicia Jipson PO Box 310, Belmont, NH 03220

or

administration@belmontnh.gov

School Advisory Budget Committee Members Needed

The Shaker Regional School District is seeking community members to serve on the Advisory Budget Committee.

The board will select 3 members from Belmont and 3 members from Canterbury to serve on this committee at its September 24, 2024 board meeting. All members must be registered voters for the town in which they are serving.

Please visit www.sau80.org to review the charge of this committee.

Please submit a letter of interest to Debbie Thompson, Business Administrator at dthompson@sau80.org or Shaker Regional School District, 58 School Street, Belmont, NH 03220 no later than September 19, 2024.

Please contact Ms. Thompson at 267-9223 ext. 5303 with any questions.





Assessing Information

Municipal assessments of real property (land and structures) are required by law in the State of New Hampshire at least every 5 years and are used to help calculate property taxes, which support the Town, School District, County and State. The requirements include that a revaluation of property reflects changes in the real estate market and sales of property in Belmont in the year prior to the assessment period (April 1st through March 31st) for fair market value. Fair market value is how much a property would sell for under normal circumstances, between a willing buyer and willing seller. Some of the factors that are used in assessment values are location, size, construction quality/age of structures and topography. An assessor values properties based on state law and professional assessing standards. A revaluation does not increase the tax dollars a Town is allowed to raise. (Please see TAX information on page 2 for additional information on how taxes are raised and calculated). Per state statute, assessments are based on the status of the property as of April 1st.

Tax Cards: Up to date Vision property tax cards are always available at Town Hall in the Land Use or Assessing Departments. (Tax cards provided through our AxisGIS website are updated approximately once a year after the fall tax bills have been posted.)

Exemptions & Credits: Some taxpayers may qualify for an exemption or credit on their assessment/taxes. Belmont offers the following exemptions and credits:

Elderly

Disabled

Blind

Veteran

- Spouse of Veteran
- Solar

Exemptions and credits do not change the amount of taxes to be raised; they lower the tax base which results in a higher tax rate.

Abatements: Taxpayers who wish to dispute the assessed value of their property may do so with an Abatement Application. State law requires applications be submitted after the fall tax bill has been received and before March 1st of the following year. Supporting documentation is required to show disproportionality. If there is an error in your property description you may consider providing photos.

Questions: For any of your assessing questions, or for more information about credits and exemptions, please contact our Assessing Department at (603) 267-8300 xt 118.



Tax Information

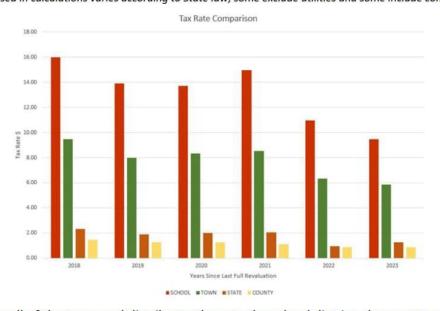
The Tax Collector's office issues property tax bills twice per year in the spring and in the fall. Taxes paid to the Town include municipal, school district, county and state taxes. These taxes pay for our schools, emergency services (police and fire), road maintenance, water and sewer, and other services such as general assistance, parks and recreation, planning and zoning, building inspection, code enforcement, administration and finance, town clerk services such as vital statistics, vehicle registrations, elections and more. The amount of municipal and school tax dollars to be raised is primarily determined by local voters, who approve a budget and warrant articles on the ballot in March; then other revenues are deducted to determine a total. Every fall, the tax rate is calculated by the State after reviewing all appropriations voted on, and all revenues expected.

Tax Rate Calculation: The annual tax rate is calculated by taking all of the voted appropriations from the March Town and School meetings (budget and warrant articles), subtracting all other revenue, adding any county and state tax, and then dividing that amount by the total assessed value of all Belmont property.

2023 Tax Rate Calculation:

Jurisdiction	Total \$ to Raise by Taxation	Town Valuation*	Tax Rate
School (Local Education)	\$12,288,631	\$1,297,547,309	\$9.47
Town (Municipal)	\$7,599,907	\$1,297,547,309	\$5.86
State Education	\$1,599,682	\$1,279,417,770	\$1.25
County	\$1,161,849	\$1,302,693,459	\$0.89
	\$22,650,069		\$17.47

^{*} Assessment Value used in calculations varies according to State law; some exclude utilities and some include commercial exemptions.



The Town collects all of the taxes and distributes them to the school district, the county, and the state.



Municipal Budget Information

The budgeting process starts each year in August. The Town Administrator and Department Heads start reviewing their current year's expenditures, contracts to renew, and looking ahead at upcoming expenses. In September, Department Heads meet individually with the Town Administrator for a review of their budget. After this review there may be some modifications made before the Board of Selectmen reviews all budgets in October. The Board works with each Department Head and may make additional changes before they approve each budget. The Budget Committee, consisting of 12 elected members and an ex-officio from the Board of Selectmen, meets from November to January and also reviews each budget with Department Heads before making an approval. Public hearings on the budget are held in January. The final budget is submitted to the State of New Hampshire for review before being included on the Town ballot in March. This means the Town operates from January to March without knowing what the budget for the year is. All meetings are open to the public. Most meeting videos are available to watch later, and written meeting minutes are available for all meetings.

The Town municipal budget process does not include the school budget. The Shaker Regional School District serving the towns of Belmont and Canterbury is a separate entity and has an independent budget process with an advisory budget committee.

Municipal budgets include revenues from various sources:

•Land Use Change Tax •Permits & Fees •State & Federal Government (Grants) •Income from Departments

•Timber Yield Tax •Meals & Rooms Tax •Motor Vehicle Registrations •Building Permit Fees

•Gravel Excavation Tax •Interest & Penalties •Municipal Aid •Licensing

Expenses include all things relative to running a municipality:

The Town of Belmont is an SB2 Town, and therefore if the operating budget fails on the ballot in March, the

 Buildings Equipment & Vehicles •Road Maintenance & Repair Water & Sewer (offset by fees) Supplies & Postage Service Contracts Employee Wages & Benefits Library General Assistance Elections •Town Beach & Recreation Properties Heritage & Historical Society Cemeteries Utilities Vehicle Maintenance & Repair •Building Maintenance & Repair •Insurance & Legal Professional Fees Curbside Trash Collection Technology

Town may call a special meeting to reconsider a revised budget, or allow the default budget to take effect. The default budget includes the same appropriations as the previous year, with some reductions and increases by contracts and other obligations mandated by law. If the operating budget fails, it creates a bottom-line default budget within which the Selectboard must stay.

Warrant articles for Capital Reserve Fund appropriations are not included as part of the operating budget, but those appropriation amounts are used in the calculation of the taxes to be raised. Capital Reserve Funds act as "savings accounts" for the Town for a specific intended purpose for large projects or long-term expenditures such as Highway Reconstruction, Municipal Facilities, Information Technology, Property Revaluation, Cemetery Maintenance, Library Building Improvements and more. The funds are a simple way to set aside small sums for a future large purchase to spread out the tax impact.



Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office

The Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office is busy each day performing important duties for residents such as processing motor vehicle registrations, water and sewer payments, tax payments and Vital Records requests.

Each year on average 8,015 tax bills are issued

Each year on average 5,656 water & sewer bills are issued

On a monthly basis we process an average of 1,000 to 1,500 motor vehicle transactions either paid online, over the counter or via mail, with an average yearly revenue of \$1.5 to \$1.7 million.

During the time that we are not actively collecting and posting payments for taxes and utilities, we are busy researching and preparing for the various tax and utility processes that are required by law, such as the tax lien/ deed process. These take extensive preparation as we print, process and prepare to mail every notice in the office. We send out an average of 275 lien notices per year which require the preparation and mailing of delinquent notices as well as the preparation and mailing, via certified letter, the intent to lien notices.

During the months of January to the end of April we take care of dog licensing. We collect about \$7,800 by processing approximately 1,550 licenses along with sending out postcard reminders to dog owners who overlooked licensing their dogs by the April 30th due date. As the date for the civil forfeiture approaches, we also make phone calls as a reminder so residents can avoid the \$25 civil forfeiture fee and potential legal action.

The Town Clerk's office is also responsible for processing Vital Records such as birth, marriage and death certificates as well as marriage licenses. We process about 400 requests for vital records and collect about \$3,200 annually along with about \$1,400 in marriage licenses. The processing of birth, marriage and death certificates takes about 10 minutes per transaction while processing a marriage license takes about 45 minutes.

This year the Town Clerk's Office is responsible for holding four elections as well as taking the minutes for the Town's deliberative session. There is an incredible amount of preparation that goes into each and every election.

We accept all new voter registrations as well as take care of any changes that need to be made to an existing registered voter's information.

We give notice for every election and accept all absentee ballot requests. When our ballots arrive, we double count every ballot that is used for elections. We prepare and mail all absentee ballots as they are requested as well as keep them secure and organized in preparation for the election.

Election days start at 6:30 AM and generally ends around 10:00 PM. Every part of the election is mandated by the Secretary of State's office and we work very hard to anticipate and address the needs of our voters and colleagues.

We work very hard in the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office to meet and exceed the expectations of our residents throughout the many services we provide. We are a 3-person crew working hard and doing our very best to serve the residents of the Town of Belmont.



Effects of a Default Budget

A Default Budget takes effect when a municipality's voters do not approve the proposed operating budget. This happened this year (2024) in the Town of Belmont. The default budget is calculated based on last year's appropriations with some reductions and increases for contracts, one time expenditures and other mandated obligations. The default budget is a bottom-line budget that that Selectboard must stay within.

The Town Administrator and Department Heads started reworking budgets immediately after the March Town Meeting to stay within the default budget with the least impact on services provided to residents of the Town of Belmont.

Immediate Cost Saving Measures/Increasing Revenues:

- Budget Line Items Reduced as much as possible
- Cut Police Cruiser Replacements
- Cut Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day
- Deferred spending until year-end
- Deferred maintenance

- · Cut open job positions
- Cut Old Home Day Funding
- Reduced Health Agency donations
- Increased fees for some permits
- •

Some Long-Term Effects:

- Inflation and increases to the cost of future goods and services as well as delays receiving important equipment
- Important projects are not completed, such as road maintenance and repairs. As roads deteriorate, there is
 more work necessary to complete repairs, and the cost of labor and materials increases each year. In
 addition, roads that have deteriorated cause more damage to vehicles which then increases repair costs for
 individuals and government entities. Maintaining and repairing outdated equipment is not always fiscally
 responsible or safe.
- Loss of valuable, knowledgeable, experienced employees to other municipalities and the private sector. This
 inflates employee costs significantly due to the training necessary for new employees, as well as the
 offboarding and onboarding for two employees at the same time. Remaining employees are less efficient at
 their jobs as they spend time to train new employees.
- It is going to cost more money in the long-term to catch up on all of the items that were deferred and put off, due to inflation, increased costs and delays with orders. It potentially puts the community at risk when there are not sufficient police vehicles, or fire tankers, or employees to serve the Town.
- · Budget cuts to items like office supplies and training can only be put off temporarily.
- When the budget is frozen over 1-2 years, the Town cannot grow and provide the services residents expect, need or want.

Meeting Schedules for BOS and Budget Committee

Upcoming Meetings

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4th at 10:00 am in the Tioga Room at the Mill.

The Board of Selectmen will be meeting with Department Heads regarding the 2025 Budget during the month of October.

The Budget Committee will be meeting with Department Heads regarding the 2025 Budget during November and December.

All meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted at Town Hall and on our website at:

https://belmontnh.gov/Pages/Index/227658/agendas---2024

Budget Planning



Free Pet Supplies for Residents in Need



Town Clerk's Corner

Greetings fellow residents of Belmont!! Where oh where has the summer gone??

As fall approaches, it is that time of year to keep an eye on those mailboxes for the Third Issue Water/Sewer bills. The Third Issue bill covers the months of June, July and August. The bills will be sent out in September and due in October.

ELECTION:

We are looking forward to seeing you at the NH State Primary Election on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Voting takes place at Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road. Polls are open from 7am to 7pm. If you would like to do research on the candidates, we have sample ballots here at the Town Clerk's office that you can pick up, or you may view them on our Town's website at belmonthn.gov

If you are unable to attend the election you can complete an Absentee Ballot Request Form, or submit a letter requesting an absentee ballot. Please keep in mind that all requests MUST include the requester's signature. You can come into the office and complete your ballot, pick it up at the office and return it later or request that your ballot be mailed to you. All ballots must be returned by 5PM on election day. Our office will be open after hours from 4PM-5PM on Monday, September 9th for ABSENTEE VOTING ONLY. This is a Primary Election so if you are registered as "Undeclared" (no political party affiliation) you must indicate which party's ballot you would like to receive. (Democrat or Republican)

At this point in time, if you need to register to vote you will have to do so at the polls on election day. Please bring your ID and proof of residency. (Utility Bill, Pay Stub, etc..).

Fun Facts

With there being a Friday the 13th in September, we thought it would be fun to find some facts about that day.

- There is very little evidence to show that Friday the 13th is indeed an unlucky day. Many studies have shown that Friday the 13th has little or no effect on events like accidents, hospital visits, and natural disasters.
- Friday the 13th is not universally seen as a day of misery. For example, in Italy, Friday the 17th and not Friday the 13th is considered to be a day that brings bad luck. In fact, the number 13 is thought to be a lucky number!
- In many Spanish speaking countries and in Greece, Tuesday the 13th is seen as a day of misfortune.
- Since 1995, Finland has dedicated one Friday the 13th in a year to observe National Accident Day. The day aims to raise awareness about safety—on the roads, at home, and at the workplace.

Important Dates

September 2nd – Labor Day—Town Hall is closed in observation of the holiday

September 10th – State Primary Election at Belmont High School, 255 Seavey Road from 7am to 7pm AND the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office will be closed (other Town Hall offices remain open)

September 18th – Town Clerk/Tax Collector's Office & Town Hall will be closed from 12-1pm

September 25th – Deeds will be executed

Thank you, Jenn C, Sam & Devon

Vote in Honor of a Veteran

Information on how to participate in the Secretary of State's "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" program.

The Secretary of State's Office is pleased to launch its "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" program, which gives New Hampshire voters the opportunity to recognize the veterans and service members in their lives who protect our most precious freedom – the right to vote.

To participate in the program, simply use the button below to submit the name of the veteran or service member you are voting in honor of and a short testimonial on what their service means to you. In exchange, the Secretary of State's Office will mail you a "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" lapel pin designed by Navy veteran Jacob Aldridge that you can wear proudly on Election Day.

Your testimony may be posted on our website.

Artist's Biography

Our "Vote in Honor of a Veteran" pin was designed by Navy veteran Jacob Aldridge in 2024.

Originally from Virginia, Mr. Aldridge joined the navy after graduating high school in 2010.

Following his service as an auxiliary technician aboard the USS Cheyenne, he joined the USS New Hampshire. After a decade of dedicated service in the Navy, he worked as an engineering tech at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

Mr. Aldridge, a recipient of five Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medals, is currently pursuing a degree in Fine Arts at Great Bay Community College.

Go to www.sos.nh.gov/vote-honor-veteran to sign up and receive your pin.

Highway Department News

Replacement Well Update

The replacement for Well # 1 will be a similar gravel packed well. The well drilling was completed in July and an 18" oversized casing was installed. After nearly 2 months, a custom 10' long 12" stainless steel screen has been engineered for specification, built and shipped from Texas. The screen was then attached to a 12" well casing and after being sanitized, lowered into the center of the larger, 18" casing. Once placed, the gap between the new 12" and oversized 18" was filled with a sanitized gravel media specified from the sieve analysis that took place after drilling. The appropriately sized media is coarse enough that it is held back by the screen while still letting large quantities of water infiltrate through into the well. Once the void is filled, the oversized outer casing will be removed, allowing the porous gravel and stainless-steel screen to start generating water uninhibited. Pictured below are contractors adding the gravel media to the void, creating the gravel packed portion. By the time this publication hits the mailbox, the outer casing will be removed and we should be in the development stage of our replacement well project. Look to future publications for updates on this ARPA—funded project!





2024 Summer Paving

Paving projects in 2024 were restricted to what the Department and the Selectboard considered necessities. There were problem areas in Town that took a large amount of time and resources from the Department only to render a temporary repair. First on the list was a wheel rut that formed on Main Street. This depression started several years ago and was primarily in the northbound lane. Over the





Highway Department News

2024 Summer Paving ... continued

last few years both cold patch and hot top patches were used to fill the holes as needed, often repeatedly. When the decision was made to come up with a permanent repair, contractors with specialized equipment were enlisted to help. Pictured to the right is a specialized machine that targets troubled areas like the one described. It removes the distressed pavement without disturbing the subgrade, loading the waste into a truck and leaving a compacted trench that can then be paved with a sidewalk paver. This machine milled and then paving contractors followed with their equipment, creating a cost effective, permanent repair that should hold up to today's influx of traffic. Spots on Church Hill and Monument Square received similar treatments for the same reasons and together totaled nearly a couple hundred feet. Pictured below is the finished, milled trench and patch that resulted when the contractors finished up.











Highway Department News

2024 Summer Paving ... continued

Dutile Road from Lamprey Road to Horne Road received the only full treatment to date this year. This portion was discussed in the Department's shim and overlay program two years ago, but private development in the area gave cause to postpone until the majority of the project was completed. Numerous tons of pavement and a large investment of the Department's labor hours went into hand shimming and other pavement patches to keep the road together until we reached this point. Pictured below are the paving operation heading up Dutile Road, and members of your Public Works Team adding gravel to a driveway to make the approach match the new, elevated pavement height. Gravel back-up will be completed soon to protect the edge of pavement and the traveling public. This should leave a great finished product for the road users of Belmont!









Belmont Fire Department



Belmont Fire Department

After 33-years of serving the Belmont Fire Department in many different capacities, Lt. Thomas Murphy retired on July 31st. All of us at Belmont Fire Department 'THANK YOU' for your many years service to the Belmont Community.

Enjoy your well deserved retirement!!





Congratulations Lt. Murphy!!!

of Service Lt. Murphy



Belmont Fire Department



Belmont Fire Department

Congratulations Lt. Ryan





Effective August 5th, Tom Ryan was promoted to Lieutenant!! Lt. Ryan is assigned to Shift 3 filling retired Lt. Murphy's Officer position. Lt. Ryan is not a stranger to BFD. He was a student in 2014 and transitioned into a Call Firefighter and has been with Belmont Fire as a full-time Firefighter/AEMT since 2021.

Congratulations on your promotion, Lt. Ryan!!!

Belmont Police Department

Belmont Schools will be starting classes on September 3, 2024 and the Belmont Police Department would like to remind people of the increase of school buses and children on the roads and to pay attention. We also recommend you give yourself extra time when heading to work or your destination. You may also contact the school to obtain school bus routes and times to help assist you in avoiding any delays in your daily travel route.



Sharing the Road with School Buses:

- If you're driving behind a bus, allow a greater following distance than if you were driving behind a car. It will give you more time to stop once the yellow lights start flashing.
- It is illegal in all 50 states to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- Never pass a bus from behind or from either direction if you're on an undivided road if it is stopped to load or unload children
- If the yellow or red lights are flashing and the stop arm is extended, traffic must stop
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them space to safely enter and exit the bus
- Be alert; children often are unpredictable, and they tend to ignore hazards and take risks

Here are some school bus safety tips to keep kids safe on their way to school:

- Teach your kids that yellow flashing lights indicate a bus is preparing to stop.
- Wait to get on the bus until the bus driver says it is safe.
- Be respectful of the bus driver and always follow directions.
- Remain seated while riding the bus.
- Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive to ensure quick and timely pickups.

Belmont Police Department

Qualified Patrol Officer Candidates Needed

Patrol Officer

The Belmont Police Department is seeking qualified candidates to fill two vacant patrol positions.



Job Summary

Performs duties required to protect lives and property of the public, maintain law and order, detect and prevent crime, apprehend and prosecute violators of the criminal and motor vehicle laws; does related work as required. Performs diversified work patrolling roadways within the Town, responsible for the enforcement of State laws and Town ordinances making regular patrols, directing traffic, responding to calls for service, investigating accidents and crimes; may include other specialized police activities. Makes frequent contacts with the public, other law enforcement agencies, governmental and court officials for the discussion of problems and to obtain cooperation necessary for the accomplishment of the police department mission.

Minimum Qualifications Required

U.S. citizen, high school diploma or G.E.D. certificate, minimum age 21, must pass written and/or oral examinations, extensive background investigation, criminal history check, medical examination, physical fitness test, polygraph examination, psychological examination, and be certified or certifiable by the N.H. Police Standards & Training Council.

Training Required

While no advanced training is required, it is desired. Candidates will be required to attend and successfully complete the basic police certification course held at the New Hampshire Police Standards and Training Council within one (1) year of appointment unless there is no scheduled class within that time frame as well as the department field training program.

Compensation and Benefits: Wages are based on a 10-step union negotiated scale, up to \$36.11 dependent upon years of service for Full-Time Certified Officers. Eleven (11) paid holidays, Medical, Dental and Life Insurance.

Accrual of annual and sick leave with 80 hours vacation time after 6 months. Officers typically work 4/3 schedule, and rotate every 2 months. Participation in the New Hampshire Retirement System Group II.

Salary: \$23.85 - \$36.11 per hour

Benefits: Dental insurance, Employee Assistance Program, health insurance, life insurance, retirement plan, vision insurance

Interested parties may submit a Personal History Statement Form available at belmonthhoolice.org

As always, if you have any questions for us, we can be reached at 603-267-8350.

Belmont Community Events

Community

SARGENT PARK NIGHT FRIDAYS 8/2 - 8/30 4:30P-7P

COME JOIN US EVERY
FRIDAY NIGHT FOR SOME
MUSIC, FUN & GAMES. NEW
ACTIVITIES WEEKLY

PICKLEBALL & BASKETBALL SATURDAYS 10A-2P

THAT'S RIGHT! YOU ASKED AND WE LISTENED! WE HAVE PUT TEMPORARY PICKLEBALL LINES ON THE COURTS! COME USE SOME OF OUR EQUIPMENT OR BRING YOUR OWN!

CORNHOLE & PICNIC AT THE PAVILION

8/22

12P-2P

BRING YOUR LUNCH AND JOIN US FOR A NICE FRIENDLY GAME OF CORNHOLE AT THE TIOGA PAVILION

"BELMONT WALKS" EVERY TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9A

MEET US AT THE
VILLAGE SPUR RAIL
TRAIL PARKING
LOT FOR A
COMMUNITY
WALK

PAINT AT THE PARK PARTY

9/13

6P-8P

LET"S HAVE A PAINT PARTY AT THE PARK! A GREAT FAMILY ACTIVITY RIGHT AFTER THE START OF THE SCHOOL YEAR!

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OUR FALL MOVIE NIGHT & ACTIVITY CALENDAR!



FOR MORE INFORMATION JOIN OUR BELMONT PARKS & RECREATION FACEBOOK PAGE

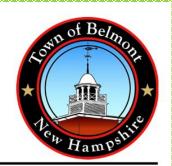
Building & Code Enforcement

Building Department News

from the

Building Inspector

September 2024



Sometimes accidents happen. We can't always be prepared for unexpected events, but here are some tips on how to proceed in case of damage to your home or other building.

Some examples of damage may be from the weather, trees falling, a vehicle accident, fire, or explosion.

- ⇒ Call your insurance company. They can best assist you with the steps to follow. The insurance company will likely send an adjuster to inspect the damage and evaluate the cost of repairs.
- ⇒ Take photos **BEFORE** any clean up occurs
- ⇒ Contact the building inspector if you suspect structural damage
- ⇒ Obtain required permits for any necessary work—including demolition of a structure and repair or replacement of the structure.
- ⇒ Look for 24/7 emergency response providers or disaster recovery organizations such as the American Red Cross Society that provide services for: floods, fire, or structural damage

Thank you, Glenn Caron,

Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer





143 Main Street, P.O. Box 310, Belmont, NH 03220 buildingofficial@belmontnh.gov (603)267-8300x111 www.belmontnh.gov

Land Use

In this issue >>>

Upcoming Meetings:

ARC – 9/19/2024 (if needed)
Planning Board – 9/23/2024
Zoning Board – 9/25/2024



Septembe 2024

A Monthly Insight into the happenings in Belmont Land Use

Land U_{Se} $\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \cdot \text{ ARC} \\ \cdot \text{ Planning} \\ \cdot \text{ Zoning} \end{array} \right\}$

August Meetings >>>

Your Land Use Staff

Karen Santoro Town Planner

Rod Cameron Land Use Technician

Susan Austin
Administrative Assistant

John Crowley Land Use Clerk

For additional Information: Visit www.belmontnh.gov Contact luoffice@belmontnh.gov



Application Review Committee (August meeting canceled)

Planning Board (August 26, 2024)

<u>Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing – 284 Property, LLC:</u> Continuation of a request for Site Plan approval to construct a 4,950 square foot steel storage building. Property is located at 284 Laconia Road, Tax Lot 210-002-000-000 in the Commercial Zone. PB Case# 16-24P.— Continued to 9/23/2024

Plan Submission Meeting and Public Hearing JCB, LLC: Request for subdivision approval to divide one lot into nine residential lots and construct a 4,150-foot road, including utilities and fire cistern. Property is located at 36 Horse Point Road, Tax Lot 201-011-000-000, in the Commercial and Residential Single Zones. Planning Board Case #18-24P—Continued to 9/23/2024

>>> Next Planning Board Meeting: September 23, 2024, 6:00PM

Zoning Board of Adjustment (August 28, 2024)

<u>Abutter's Hearings – Keith and Heather Buxton:</u> Continuation of a request proposing to remove the existing residential structure and replace it with a new single-family home, and requests the following relief:

A variance of Article 4 Table 1 of the Wetlands Ordinance to allow the construction of a single-family home and deck closer (42.5') to public waters than allowed (50' required). ZBA Case # 11-24Z

A variance of Article 5, Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow the construction of a single-family home and deck closer (13.5') to the front lot line than allowed (50' required). ZBA Case # 12-24

Property is located at 19 Chestnut Street, in the "RS" Zone, Tax Lot 114-008-000-000.

continued...

Land Use



Zoning Board of Adjustment (August 28, 2024) - Continued

<u>Abutter's Hearing – CJM Industries, LLC:</u> Request for a one-year approval extension for two Variances of the Zoning Ordinance to construct single-family residences:

(Article 5 Table 1) in the Commercial Zone in compliance with the Residential Single-Family Zone dimensional requirements. ZBA #13-24Z

(Article 5 Table 2) in the Rural Zone in compliance with the Residential Single-Family Zone dimensional requirements. ZBA #14-24ZZ

Property is located at Route 3 and 45 Westview Drive, Tax Lots 201-016-000-000 & 201-025- 000-000, in the Commercial Zone. Original Approval date was June 22, 2022.

<u>Abutter's Hearing – Elizabeth Sederquest:</u> Request for a Special Exception to Article 5 Table 1 of the Zoning Ordinance to allow agriculture all animals (chickens) on a property less than 3 acres. Property is located at 18 Hurricane Road in the "RS" Zone, Tax Lot 222-008-000-000. ZBA# 15-24Z.

Abutter's Hearing - Danielle Joyce: Applicant is proposing to replace existing deck and is requesting the following relief:

A variance of Article 5, Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to construct a deck closer (21') to the front lot line (Pond Road) than allowed (50' required). ZBA Case # 16-24Z

A variance of Article 5, Table 2 to construct a deck closer (36') to the front lot line (Sunset Drive) than allowed (50' required). ZBA Case # 17-24Z

Property is located at 145 Sunset Drive, in the "RS" Zone, Tax Lot 107-168-000-000.

<u>Abutter's Hearing – Michael and Veronica Fournier:</u> Request for a variance to Article 5 Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to build a 16' x 16' addition to the existing house that will be closer (34') to the front property line than is allowed (50' required). Property is located at 272 Seavey Road, in the "RS" Zone, Tax Lot 237-008-000-000. ZBA Case #18-24Z.

Abutter's Hearing – Barr Outdoor Advertising: Request for a Special Exception to Article 11.A.2 of the Zoning Ordinance to rebuild and add a second sign to a preexisting nonconforming billboard. Property is located on Laconia Road, in the "C" Zone, Tax Lot 205-066-000-000. ZBA Case # 19-24Z

<u>Abutter's Hearing -Lawrence and Elizabeth Dubin:</u> Request for a variance of Article 5, Table 2 of the Zoning Ordinance to build a new single-family home closer (25') to the front setback than allowed (50' required). Property is located at 50 Gardners Grove Road, Tax Lot 120-018-000-000, in the "RS" Zone. ZBA Case# 20-24Z

>>> Next Meeting: September 25,2024, 6:00PM

Looking for Board members!

Visit the Town's website: www.belmontnh.gov to submit an application.

Planning Board

- 7 regular members, 3 alternates
- 3 vacancies

Zoning Board

- 5 regular members, 5 alternates
- 4 vacancies

Conservation (no current vacancies)

• 7 regular members, 3 alternates, 2 student members





Conservation Commission

BELMONT CONSERVATION COMMISSION





Natural resources largely define Belmont's rural character. Rural character is "a quality of life and place...characterized by open spaces, historic places, forest and farmlands" (Belmont Master Plan, November 18, 2002, page 7.1).

BELMONT CONSERVATION PROPERTIES

The Town of Belmont, New Hampshire, in addition to its numerous recreational facilities, has twenty conservation properties that are open to the public. Belmont supports the conservation of open space through the efforts of its Conservation Commission to promote open space preservation and to successfully steward conservation lands under their management. The Commission has been charged with the protection and preservation of land that has been identified as a valuable and irreplaceable resource for drinking water, wildlife habitat and recreation.

Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area

The Town of Belmont acquired the Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation Area from Phillip Harker in 2006 by warranty deed. It is bounded on the south by Depot Street (Route 140), on the west by the Winnipesaukee River, on the north by private land, part of which is the former Tilton to Belmont Village Railroad Spur, and on the east by private land.

Prior to obtaining the property, portions of the site were logged and excavated by the previous owner and the lot was the subject of a number of commercial proposals. During July 2004, the Department of Environmental Services issued Administrative Order No. WD 20004-11 to the previous owner for unauthorized dredging and filling of approximately 150,000 square feet of wetlands. As part of the purchase of the property, the Town of Belmont accepted wetland



restoration obligations of the previous owner which was completed by September 2008.

During 2008, the Town retained Stoney Ridge Environmental LLC and Neatline Associates to complete a town-wide Prime Wetland Assessment of all major wetland complexes in the Town of Belmont. The Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area property contains a large portion of the wetland complex identified as Wetland 18 in the assessment. This prime wetland area was rated high for a number of wetland functions and values including educational potential, water-based recreation, sediment trapping, and wetland wildlife habitat. In fact, this wetland complex received the highest rank of all the wetland systems in the Town of Belmont and had the highest score for Ecological Integrity.

In 2010, as a condition of an Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) Grant, the Belmont Conservation Commission approached 5 Rivers Conservation Trust to hold a conservation easement in order to guarantee perpetual protection on the property. The original intent for the ARM grant was to make wildlife habitat improvements to the property, but during initial researches, a 27-acre infestation of Glossy Buckthorn was found in the previously disturbed areas and the plan shifted to address its removal. The Student Conservation Association was contracted to eradicate the Glossy Buckthorn by hand over two summers.

Conservation Commission

The Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area totals approximately 188 acres and borders a significant portion of the Tioga River near its confluence with the Winnipesaukee River. The entire site underlies a significant stratified drift aquifer that supplies drinking water to residents in the towns of Belmont, Northfield, and Tilton. The property contains habitat identified as "Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition" by the NH Wildlife Action Plan.

In addition, the site is located in close vicinity to documented locations of the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) and wood turtle (Glyptemys insculpta). Bald eagles are listed as State Endangered and are known to utilize the Winnipesaukee River in close proximity to the site. The wood turtle is considered rare and has been documented in the Tioga River corridor on the south side of Route 140.



Currier-Sanborn Conservation Land

The acquisition of the Currier-Sanborn property was funded in part by grants from the NH Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, the NH Aquatic Resources Mitigation Grant Program and the NH State Conservation Committee (Moose Plate Program).



The outstanding conservation attributes of this property are the extensive wetlands, which are one of the highest ranked conservation priorities in the State as identified by the 2015 NH Fish and Game Wildlife Action Plan, and the long undisturbed frontage along the Winnipesaukee River. It also completes conservation of the Tioga Marsh. The frontage along the Winnipesaukee River is a significant contributor to the wildlife benefits of the property.

The property contains 57 acres of high priority wetlands including marsh, shrub wetlands and forested wetlands. The property includes 2,700 feet of

undeveloped frontage on the Winnipesaukee River and 1,850 feet of undeveloped frontage along the Tioga River. The property includes 24 acres of forested upland, dominated by mature white pine with minor components of other species. The property includes over 500 feet of scenic frontage on Gardners Grove Road and 2,700 feet of scenic frontage along the Winnipesaukee River. This property abuts the 188-acre Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation Area owned by the Town of Belmont.

The most significant quality of the Currier-Sanborn Trust Parcel is its pristine marsh and floodplain forest. The wetland, part of a 167-acre wetland on the adjoining Tioga River Wildlife and Conservation Area as previously noted, is the largest and highest ranking wetland in Belmont as identified by Stoney Ridge Environmental, LLC's Prime Wetland Analysis. Both properties are identified as a "Conservation Focus Area" and as a "Highest Ranked Wildlife Habitat by Ecological Condition" by the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department. The wetland also contains an intricate network of small lower perennial streams stemming off of the main channel of the river. The network of stream channels supports a wide semi-permanent palustrine emergent marsh.

On the Tioga River Wildlife & Conservation Area, this wide marsh zone then transitions into a palustrine forested and scrub-shrub wetland and a seasonally saturated palustrine forested, broad-leaved deciduous, and needle-leaved evergreen system. These forested areas are dominated by eastern hemlock, red maple, and winterberry holly. The presence of hummocks and variable microtopography is supporting a diverse herbaceous layer dominated in part by inflated sedge, rattlesnake grass, wool grass, fringed sedge, royal fern, bunchberry, and bristly dewberry. Due to the presence of ponded water, this habitat type also provides potential breeding habitat to four-toed salamander (Hemidactylium scutatum), a species that is tracked by the NH Fish and Game Department.

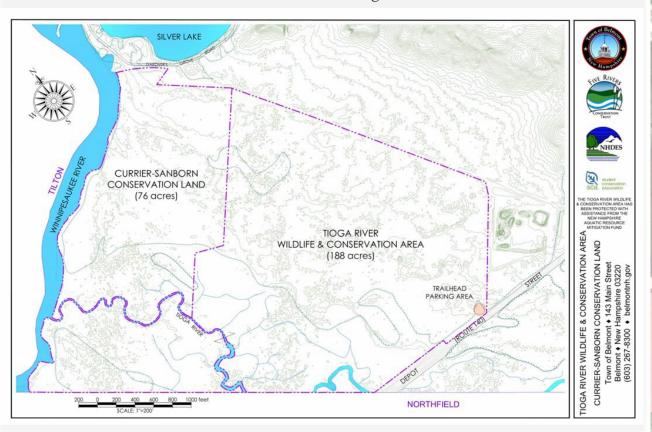
Conservation Commission





marshland

Tioga River



NEXT CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING Wednesday, September 07, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Conservation Commission Members Denise Naiva, Chair; Pauline Tessier, Vice-Chair; Jane Jordan; Ed Stephenson; Deborah Woodcock; Georgina Lambert; Sharon Ciampi, Ex-Officio ALTERNATE MEMBERS
Richard Moreau; Jeffrey DeFrancesco;
Alternate Position Open
STUDENT MEMBERS
Emerson Decato

Belmont Public Library

September 2024



Fiber Arts Group

Mondays 10am

Watercolor Workshop

Mondays 2pm

Cribbage Club

Tuesdays 1-3pm

Mah Jongg

Thursdays 2-4pm

Newcomers welcome!

Library Closed Labor Day September 2

BYO Lunch Family Movie Tuesday September 10 noon

Monday Friday 10am-5pm Tuesday Wednesday Thursday 10am-6pm Saturday 9am-1pm belmontpubliclibrary.org (603)267-8331 **NonFiction Group**

September 5 10:30am

Tea and Tales

September 12 5pm

Friday Fiction

September 20 10:30am

My First Book Club

September 21 11am

Mystery Group

September 26 10am

Weekly

Book Groups

146 Main Street

Belmont Historical Society Presentation 09/24/2024

RELIVE YOUR CHILDHOOD SATURDAY MORNINGS!

And Learn How Early Cartoons Came About

Whether you are a "Baby Boomer" like me, or a "Generation Xer", you will enjoy seeing clips of some of your favorite cartoon characters from the late 50's, as well as the 60's and 70's. In addition, you will also learn about how cartoons came to be a staple of after school and Saturday morning routines for children as well as "big business". If this sounds interesting to you, or just a pleasant way to reminisce with your friends, please join the Belmont Historical Society on Tuesday, September 24th at 7pm, on the 4th floor of the Belmont Mill, Belmont, NH, (use parking lot rear door). Funding for the program is provided by NH Humanities and the town Sargent Fund.

The program will be presented by <u>Margo Burns</u>, a lifelong fan of cartoons, who cut her teeth on Popeye and Yogi Bear. She formally studied animation for two years in the Rhode Island School of Design's continuing eduation program and has led computer animation projects with middle and high school students as part of UNH's Tech Camp in Durham, where each crew makes a complete film in a week. She recently retired from St Paul's School in Concord where she advised their International Lunchtime Animation Festival student club. (The program is free and open to the public and is handicapped accessible)



For additional Information or directions, call 617-835-4736





News from the Heritage Commission

Old Home Day



The rain held out and Belmont squeaked another Old Home Day in for the young and old. Our Children's Games, the Duck Pond and the Sand Pit had children digging and fishing their way to special prizes. The bubble wands prize was a great hit and one little girl sat down right away and made great bubbles by our tent.









Four student buddies who graduated from Belmont High many years ago shared hilarious stories from their school days and it brought a great reason why Old Home Day is important to us all.





A special part of our table display was in remembrance of Linda Frawley. She was one of the co-coordinators who began the Heritage Commission in 2004.

The Heritage members wish to thank Danielle, the Old Home Day Committee, the Public Works Department and anyone who worked behind the scenes for a job well done!

News from the Heritage Commission . . . continued

The Heritage Commission has been working on replacing old and torn banners on Main Street for over a year. New titles such as; We Appreciate First Responders, Celebrate Community, Main Street U.S.A., Belmont Middle School est. 1998, Original Belmont High School est. 1936, Belmont Since 1869 and Welcome to Belmont Village were installed last week. Continued coordination with the American Legion Post 58 will be bringing new American Flags starting at Penstock Park.







SAVE THE DATE

Linda Frawley's Memorial Tribute will be held on Saturday, October 5th, 1:00 P.M. at the Belmont Mill. More details will be forthcoming.





Belmont Heritage Commission

Vicki Donovan (Chair), Claire Bickford (Vice-Chair), Jill Rolfe, Ben Rolfe (Secretary), Jack Donovan, Priscilla Annis, Chris Mooney and Travis O'Hara (Selectman)

Cemetery Trustees

STONE CLEANING







(DURING)



(AFTER)

BELMONT CEMETERY TRUSTEES WILL BE HOSTING A STONE RESTORATION AND CLEANING SEMINAR WITH THE HELP OF THE NH OLD GRAVEYARD ASSOCIATION (NHOGA)

DATE: THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 2024

TIME: 10:00 AM

PLACE: JAMESTOWN CEMETERY

IN THE AREA OF 420 JAMESTOWN ROAD

THIS SEMINAR IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

STONE RESTORATION





(LEVELING)



(AFTER)

Belmont Got Lunch Program



Got Lunch! Belmont & Friends wrapped up its first season on August 26, 2024. The summer just flew by.

For 10 weeks while the kids were on school vacation, we strived to fill the gap missing for kids who are on the free and reduced lunch program in our district.

We accomplished most of what we set out to do. We started with 61 children in 40 families and ended with 55 kids in 37 families. Our goal was to provide lunches for the 5 days of the week as well as breakfast, snacks and farm fresh vegetables. We served a total of 2,790 lunches and 2,790 breakfasts totaling 5,580 meals over the 10 weeks.

We also partnered with area farms to provide farm fresh produce:

Summer squash, zucchini, cucumbers, lettuce, broccoli, corn, tomatoes, green beans, potatoes, and green peppers were rotating options throughout the summer!

Thank you to Aaron at Winnipesaukee Farms for organizing our distributions between the farms, Winnipesaukee Farm Alton NH, Red Manse Farm Loudon NH, Timber Hill Farm in Gilford and Moulton Farm in Meredith.

Thank you to St. Joseph's Church for generously allowing us to use their space for storage and distribution.

Lastly, I need to personally thank our Board of Directors for pulling it all together and our wonderful volunteers who made our vision a reality!

Sharon Ciampi

Operations/Logistics Coordinator

Garbage & Recycling Calendar 2024

Monday September 2nd trash and recycling collection will be moved to Tuesday, September 3rd.

There will be NO changes to Wednesday 9/4 and Friday 9/6 collection.





About the Voter Shuttle Service

Mid-State Transit (MST) is pleased to announce it is adding a special Voter Shuttle bus service to help Belknap and Merrimack residents get to the polls on November 5 for the general election! Call to schedule before 2:30 pm Monday, November 4, 2024.

Call today to reserve a seat at 603-225-1989

MST is a service of CAPBM

603.225.3295

2 Industrial Park Dr., Concord

MID-STATE TRANSIT

NEED HELP GETTING
TO THE POLLS? CALL
ON MST!

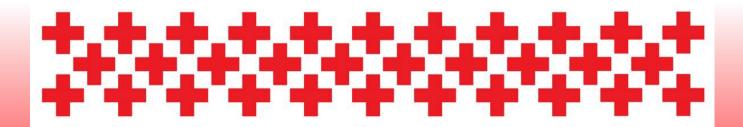
VOTER SHUTTLE SERVICE NOVEMBER 5, 2024

- This free service will pick up individuals from home or work, drop off at the requested polling location and will return a short time later for the return trip making it very convenient to get out and vote this election cycle!
- Call in advance to schedule but no later than 2:30 pm the day before election day.
- Available to any voting age Merrimack County or Belknap County resident in the MST service area going to the polls.



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive Belmont Community St. Joseph Church

Church Basement 96 Main Street Belmont, NH 03220

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: BELMONT to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients.

If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation.

Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Fall into donating! Come to give blood Sept. 16 thru 30 for a \$15 e-gift card: rcblood.org/fall.



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Granite VNA Programs

Let's Address the Elephant in the Room!

Let Granite VNA help start the conversation about end-of-life wishes. We'll have a Social Worker/ Notary Public available to support any adult, at any age or stage of health, through the advance care planning process.

Walk-In Wednesday Wednesday, August 28 10 a.m. - Noon

Granite VNA- Laconia 780 North Main Street

This program is offered at no charge.



For more information, call (603) 224-4093, ext. 85664 or visit www.granitevna.org/calendar.

Granite VNA is one of Belmont's Health Agency Partners and here are some local programs they are offering.



Aging Mastery Program®

Series is held Tuesdays and Fridays, starting on September 24 through October 25.

10:30 am - Noon

Sanbornton Public Library, 27 Meeting House Hill Road

Join us for this engaging series with a variety of guest speakers, topics, and relevant discussions all about creating a personal pathway for healthy aging. The Aging Mastery Program® classes focus on:

• Sleep • Healthy Eating & Hydration • Financial Fitness • Falls Prevention & More!

Registration is required. This program is offered at no charge.

For more information or to register, call (603) 224-4093, ext. 85664 or visit www.granitevna.org/calendar.

NH Housing Programs



New Hampshire Housing's goal is to make homeownership more affordable. They offer a wide variety of great homeownership programs including mortgages, refinancing, downpayment and closing cost assistance, Homebuyer Tax Credits, and more.

These programs come with great benefits, too—like low downpayment requirements, 30-year fixed rates, and no hidden fees.

The maximum income limit is \$167,800. Some programs may have lower income limits and purchase price limits.

New Hampshire Housing makes homeownership more affordable with mortgages that offer great benefits including:

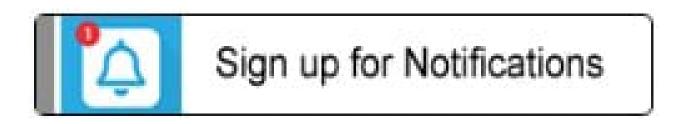
- Up to \$15,000 in downpayment and closing cost help
- 30-year fixed rates
- Low or no downpayment requirements
- Reduced mortgage insurance options
- No hidden fees
- Financing for single family homes, condos, manufactured housing and 1-4 unit owner occupied homes
- Convenient homebuyer education classes
- Mortgage refinancing for those who already own a home

While specific programs may have different income limits, in general we serve incomes up to \$167,800. Explore their programs at:

gonewhampshirehousing.com







Do you know someone new to Town, or someone in Town who would love to see our Newsletter and receive important notices by email from the Town of Belmont?

Please visit our homepage at <u>belmontnh.gov</u> and click the button on the right-hand side to "Sign Up for Notifications".

